

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/690,793

Examiner

James A. Reagan

Applicant(s)

GARROW ET AL.

Art Unit

3621

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 15 December 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-18 and 21-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date Attached
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Status of Claims**

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on 15 December 2004.
2. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended.
3. Claims 6, 19, and 20 have been cancelled.
4. Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 21-27 have been examined.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

5. Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 21-27 are allowed. See Reasons for Allowance under separate heading.

### **Reasons For Allowance**

6. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the art of record, taken individually or combination, disclose at least the method step of:

- *retrieving, by a data processor, a desired configuration of the mechanical equipment based on a design objective of the mechanical equipment, wherein the desired configuration includes configuration data on an equipment identifier, an equipment description assemble identifier, an assembly description, a part identifier, a part description data, an installation location data, an installation position data, a part specification data, an assembly specification data, and an equipment data, and wherein the design objective includes at least one of safety, reliability, and performance;*

- *retrieving, by the data processor, an actual configuration of the mechanical equipment, wherein the actual configuration includes configuration data on an equipment identifier, an equipment description data, an assembly identifier, an assembly description data, a part identifier, a part description, an installed position data, an installation date, a utilization history data, a maintenance history data, a longevity information, a part specification data, an assembly specification data, and an equipment specification data;*
- *generating, by the data processor in accordance with the comparison of the desired configuration with the actual configuration, an upgrade requirement plan for upgrading the actual configuration to the desired configuration if the actual configuration is noncompliant;*

More specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose the very specific elements that are contained within the desired configuration and actual configuration databases, comparing the elements and providing an upgrade plan based on the comparison of elements.

Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 21-27 are distinguished over the closest prior art of Sandifer, which teaches testing and evaluation of equipment, maintenance and repair in compliance with regulatory requirements in column 1, lines 1-17. Although Sandifer does not specifically disclose comparing the desired configuration with the actual configuration Aragones discloses, "An aircraft engine is often removed from an aircraft, 'taken off wing', for servicing any maintenance repair shop for a number of reasons such as to repair damage to the aircraft engine..." (column 1, lines 9-19). However, although it appears that the combination of Sandifer and Aragones would encompass the claimed invention, the combination of Sandifer/Aragones does not rise to the level of complexity with regard to the elements as delineated by the applicant in the desired configuration and actual configuration databases, and therefore would not adequately expect the outcome of comparing the two databases to determine if the actual configuration is compliant with regard to the specified elements and providing an upgrade plan if the configuration is not

compliant. Therefore, as recited in independent claims 1 and 18, it is clear that the Applicant's invention is distinguished over the Sandifer and Aragoes inventions in at least the method step and system component of *generating, by the data processor in accordance with the comparison of the desired configuration with the actual configuration, an upgrade requirement plan for upgrading the actual configuration to the desired configuration if the actual configuration is noncompliant.*

### Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
  - McQueen, G., "Aircraft Maintenance, Industrial Maintenance to Plant Operations", August 1996, disclose aircraft maintenance systems. Retrieved from IDS.
  - BAE Systems (EP 1162557 A) discloses Aircraft maintenance method in airlines, involves analyzing predicted and empirical reliability data of particular aircraft.

Application/Control Number:  
09/690,793  
Art Unit: 3621

Page 5

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **James A. Reagan** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-9131**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at (703) 305-9768.

*Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> . Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).*

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

**(703) 305-7687** [Official communications; including

After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

**(703) 308-1396** [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED"

or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.

JAR

01 April 2005

